

**News Release**  
**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*District of Rhode Island*



**August 2, 2005**



## **Providence Man Pleads Guilty to Firearms Offense**

**Kenneth Gibbs**, of Providence, has pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm, admitting that he had a handgun on him when Providence Police officers approached him on Amherst Street last October.

The office of United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty plea, which Gibbs entered yesterday before U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith in U.S. District Court, Providence.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Dulce Donovan said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that, on October 12, 2004, officers from the Providence Police Firearms Task Force drove up to a group of people outside 135 Amherst Street and saw a man break from the group. They saw him hurry toward the house and noticed indications that he was holding a gun. The officers got out of their car and ordered the man, later identified as Gibbs, to stop, but he continued into the house. They saw him stumble and remove a black handgun from his waistband.

Officers later found Gibbs in a second floor bedroom, trying to stuff the gun beneath a mattress. They arrested him at gunpoint and retrieved the gun, a loaded, .25 caliber pistol.

Gibbs, 22, of 19 Dora Street, has a prior felony conviction for carrying a pistol without a license and, as a felon, is prohibited from possessing firearms. The maximum penalty for being a felon in possession of a firearm is ten years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Providence Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Donovan is prosecuting it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 650 years in federal prison.

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